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11 September 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

C U R R E N T I N T E L L I G E N C E
R E L A T I N G T O N A T I O N A L S E C U R I T Y

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Panama: [Extremist elements hope to create a new crisis in Panama by exploiting Panamanian impatience over the canal negotiations.]

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[Panamanian dissatisfaction with the status of the present canal has been rising and Robles' critics charge that the current discussions have been unproductive and lack popular support. The US Embassy believes a political crisis and violent anti-US reaction are almost certain if the government does not soon make a statement on the talks which Panamanians can view as favorable.]

[It points out that if such a statement were made before 1 October it would appear voluntary, rather than one forced by the polemics of leftist elements of the Panamanian legislature.]

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Cyprus: [Greek officials are showing new concern over the Cyprus situation as Turkey makes final preparations for its upcoming troop rotation.]

[Athens fears that Turkey may try to provoke a new, serious incident during the rotation. A high-ranking foreign ministry official calls attention to recent sightings of Turkish naval units, including landing craft, moving southward. He also noted attendance of the chief of the Turkish general staff at a recent meeting of the Turkish National Security Council and Turkish press allusions to the possibility of trouble on 14 September, when the rotation is scheduled to occur.]

[Turkish officials, for their part, assert that Ankara's patience is about exhausted by President Makarios' continuing efforts to place restrictions on the rotation of the Turkish contingent and to reduce the legal status of the Turkish Cypriot community. The US Embassy in Ankara regards the Turkish naval moves as contingency measures, however, and sees no evidence of any unusual military build-up or undue pressure on the government.]

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Rhodesia: Indications are mounting that the Rhodesian Government may declare the country's independence within the next few months.

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In any event, Rhodesia would be best able to withstand sanctions in the late fall following payment for the tobacco crop.

Differences with London over diplomatic representation could provoke an early move. In July the Rhodesian Government announced it intended to establish its own accredited diplomatic mission in Lisbon, but Britain has argued that Rhodesian representation must be through the UK Embassy. Portugal has been evasive, but would probably accept a Rhodesian mission.

In the past month Prime Minister Smith has been making increasingly tough statements. He told Parliament last week that independence was "imminent" and that "nothing will stop us." However, he probably would prefer to continue negotiations with the UK. The Rhodesian Front congress in August endorsed this relatively cautious policy, and the US Consulate believes that Smith can hold off rising right-wing pressure at least until the end of the year.

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NOTES

Indonesia: The Indonesian Government may soon take new action against the three large Western oil companies. Negotiations for government purchase of company refineries were interrupted in mid-August, and there is now strong indication that, when resumed, the talks will cover Indonesian takeover of producing assets as well. Although the government has consistently treated the oil companies better than other foreign interests, company officials see small possibility of cash compensation and believe they might be ordered to leave.

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Japan: The Communists are leading a concerted leftist campaign to block ratification of the South Korea-Japan Treaty of Friendship when it is considered by the Diet next month. As the climax of a week-long effort to mobilize public opinion against the treaty and US Vietnam policy, they are planning a demonstration in Tokyo tomorrow. Police believe the anticipated turnout of about 60,000 persons will produce no serious incidents.

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Chile: Chile will open a commercial office in Peking this month, [redacted]

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[redacted] The government is considering naming to the office staff a leftist journalist who has been active in pro-Communist Chinese groups in Chile; he will also help the Chinese to edit their Spanish language propaganda. Peking has maintained commercial representation in Santiago since 1961, and Chilean reciprocation would constitute an important gain in Chinese efforts to increase ties with Latin America.

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*Greece: [Former deputy premier Stephanopoulos reportedly will be given a mandate to form a government early next week if he receives advance assurance of a parliamentary vote of confidence. Should Stephanopoulos succeed in gaining support of the National Radical Union and the Progressive parties, he will still need additional defectors from Papandreu's Center Union party for parliamentary approval. If this maneuver fails, the King may then attempt a non-political government under Harilaos Mitrelas, the president of the Council of State, or finally resort to an extraparliamentary solution.]

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 10 September 1965 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

SNIE 55-65, "Prospects for and Strategic Implications of a Communist Takeover in Indonesia"

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